

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A steering column comprising:

a steering gear shaft;

a jacket tube for receiving at least section of the steering gear shaft;

a locking device having a closed position in which the jacket tube is fixedly secured to the bracket member, and an open position in which the jacket tube is displaceable, within predetermined limits, relative to the bracket member; and

a pull device for opening and closing the locking device,

wherein the locking device has a first locking member having at least one hole, an engagement member displaceably received in the at least one hole and displaceable between a first position in which it projects beyond the first locking member by a predetermined length, and a second position in which it is displaced into the at least one hole against a biasing force of a spring located in the hole, and a second locking member having a plurality of receiving holes associated with the at least one engaging member, and

wherein in the open and closed positions of the locking device, a distance between the first and second locking members is, respectively, greater and smaller than the predetermined length by which the engaging member projects, in the first position thereof, beyond the first locking member.

2. A steering column as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the first and second locking members are pressed against each other in the closed position of the locking device.

3. A steering column as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the first locking member has at least two engaging members, and the second locking member has receiving holes associated with each of the at least two engaging members.

4. A steering column as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising a locking bolt that extends through at least one opening in the bracket member and at least one opening in the jacket tube, and that cooperates with the pull device.

5. A steering column as set forth in Claim 4, wherein at least one of the at least one opening of the bracket member and the at least one opening of the jacket tube is formed as an elongate opening.

6. A steering column as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the receiving holes of the second locking members are arranged in a row one after another and have centers thereof located on a straight line extending parallel to a longitudinal extent of the elongate opening.

7. A steering column as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the second locking member has at least two rows of receiving holes associated with the at least one engaging member and located, respectively, on opposite sides of the elongate opening.

8. A steering column as set forth in claim 7, wherein the second locking member has at least two rows of receiving holes located on each side of the elongate opening.

9. The steering column as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising at least one spring for retaining the first and second locking members in a spaced relationship to each other in the open position of the locking device.

10. The steering column as set forth in Claim 9, wherein the first locking member has at least one projection projecting into an elongate opening formed in the second locking member, and wherein the at least one retaining spring is arranged in the at least one projection.

11. A steering column as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the at least one engaging member has a bevel at a free end thereof.

12. A steering column as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the first locking member has a body and the at least one hole is provided in the body, and wherein the locking device further comprises a cover plate located on a side of the body remote from the second locking member for closing the at least one hole.

13. A steering column as set forth in Claim 12, wherein the at least one hole has, in a region adjacent to the second locking member, a section with a smaller diameter and forming a stop shoulder, and wherein the at least one engaging member has an annular flange cooperating with the stop shoulder for retaining the at least one engaging member in the at least one hole.

14. A locking device for a steering column having a jacket tube for receiving at least a section of a steering gear shaft, and a bracket member for securing the steering column to a body of a motor vehicle, the locking device having a closed position in which the jacket tube is fixedly secured to the bracket member, and an open position in which the jacket tube is displaceable, within predetermined limits, relative to the bracket member, the locking device comprising:

a first locking member having at least one hole and an engagement member displaceably received in the at least one hold and displaceable between a first position in which it projects beyond the first locking member by a predetermined length, and a second position in which it is displaced into the at least one hold against a biasing force of a spring located in the hole; and a second locking member having a plurality of receiving holes associated with the at least one engaging member,

wherein in the open and closed positions of the locking device, a distance between the first and second locking members is, respectively, greater and smaller than the predetermined length by which the engaging member projects in the first position thereof beyond the first locking member.